

Application Serial No. 09/407204
Examiner: N. Parekh
Art Unit: 2811

PATENT
M&G: 8688.128US01

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yew et al. (above) in view of Panchou et al. (above) and further in view of Akram et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,878).

With regard to Yew et al, this reference cannot be applied in any rejections of the pending claims of the present invention. Yew et al. cannot claim priority to the Provisional Application Serial No. 60/078056 dated March 16, 1998, as the filing date of Yew et al. is September 22, 1999 and is past the 12 month anniversary of the provisional application filing date. Accordingly, the above rejections are rendered moot, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that references cited against the claims, and which may be applied in rejections against pending claims, do not teach or suggest the features required by the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 and 19-21 are patentable.

With the above remarks, Applicant believes that this patent application is in a condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 16, 2002

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